

Dartmouth, Oct. 11/53.

Dear Mr. Higginson,

Just prior to my leaving home, (yesterday,) I heard by very direct & reliable authority, that Mr. John L. Swift has ~~made~~ the following statement, in regard to the attack on the Court House, in this city, while Anthony Burns was confined there:

That Mr. Higginson was deceived, in his reliance upon Messrs. Phillips, Parker, & others, for aid in that attack;— that he [Mr. Higginson] held the written engagement of Wendell Phillips, Theodore Parker, and a large number of others to accompany him sustain him in such an effort, but that when the time came, they abandoned him, & left him to go unaided.

Similar rumours have been
coming to us, through friends and
foes, for a number of weeks,
but I could not trace them to
any definite source. Now
such a source appears, and, though
I know how much occupied
you must be, on the eve of
leaving for Fayal, yet I cannot
allow myself to lose the time
& opportunity of asking you to
correct, in such way as seems
to you proper, a rumour so
totally unfounded as I believe the
one referred to to be, and one
which, if contradicted by you,
(who alone can be supposed able
to do it effectually) cannot but

do our friends in question great
injustice and wrong.

In haste,

Very sincerely,

Yours

S. May Jr

—

MS. B. 1.22 (98)